

Lake County, Ohio
SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE PROGRAM YEAR 2019 ACTION PLAN
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

I. Summary

- Jurisdiction: Lake County, Ohio
- Grant Number Associated with Amendment: B-19-UC-39-0007 (CDBG)
- Contact Person for Amendment: David Radachy, Director, Lake County Planning and Community Development; 105 Main Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077; Phone (440) 350-2740; Email david.radachy@lakecountyohio.gov
- The Amendment is Submitted by: The Board of Lake County Commissioners, John R. Hamercheck, President of the Board; 105 Main Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077

Lake County Planning and Community Development administers Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds received on an annual basis from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funds are made available to carry out a variety of housing, community, and economic development activities based on an Annual Action Plan approved by the Lake County Commissioners. The Lake County Board of Commissioners announces the proposed substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan/2019 Annual Action Plan for projects to be funded with a special allocation to this jurisdiction to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19). This allocation was authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136. The CARES Act made available Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds. This jurisdiction's allocation is \$822,275.

The Planning and Community Development office is asking the Lake County Board of Commissioners approval to allocate \$822,275 of available funds for the purpose of funding new grant projects and activities described within Section III of this document.

II. Process Review

The funds received annually from HUD are subject to the HUD Consolidated Plan regulations found at 24 CFR Part 91, which requires the County to prepare a five-year Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans and Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Reports. The regulations require Citizen Participation as part of the development and approval of these documents.

Citizen Participation is governed by the Citizen Participation Plan, which is reflective of the Part 91 regulations. According to the County's current adopted Citizen Participation Plan, changes to the Action Plan are considered "Substantial Amendments" when any of the following occurs (Section F):

- addition of new resources or the use of greater than 20% of the annual allocation of either CDBG or HOME Program,
- or a significant change (50%) in the scope, outcome or number of beneficiaries of an approved project level for which funds have already been approved by HUD.

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Any qualifying proposed substantial amendments will be publicized through a public notice in the local newspaper. After approval by the Commissioners, a period of thirty days (*CARES Act waiver of 30-day public comment period – it will be 5-days for this Substantial Amendment*) will be provided to receive public comments on any qualifying proposed substantial amendments before the amendment is sent to HUD for review and approval. HUD approval is required before an amendment can be implemented. The County will consider any comments submitted orally, in writing or in electronic form in preparing the substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan or Annual Action Plan. Any comments or view of citizens received in writing or orally shall be considered. A summary of the comment or view will be attached to the substantial amendment upon submission to HUD.

The CARES Act adds additional flexibility for both the CDBG-CV grant and, in some cases, for the annual FY2020 CDBG grants in these unprecedented times. The public comment period is reduced to not less than 5 days, grantees may use virtual public hearings when necessary for public health reasons, the public service cap is suspended during the emergency, and States and local governments may reimburse costs of eligible activities incurred for pandemic response regardless of the date.

III. Proposed Consolidated Plan/2019 Action Plan Amendment

Proposed use of funds by project & activity:

**Assistance to Businesses, including Special Economic Development Assistance,
Amount: \$700,000.00**

Activities may include Provision of assistance to private, for profit entities, when appropriate to carry out an economic development project: Avoid job loss caused by business closures related to social distancing by providing short-term working capital assistance to small businesses to enable retention of jobs held by low- and moderate-income persons; Provision of assistance to microenterprises: Provide technical assistance, grants, loans, and other financial assistance to establish, stabilize, and expand microenterprises.

Public Services to Support Infectious Disease Response, Amount: \$122,275

Activities may include Provision of new or quantifiable increase of public services that prevent and respond to the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19); services may include health services, employment services, emergency mortgage payments, emergency rental payments, food delivery services, homeless assistance, information and referral services, training services for healthcare workers and first responders, expanded internet to low- and moderate-income populations including mobile hot spots, and other services to support infectious disease response.

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These changes constitute a substantial amendment because there is a significant change in the scope, outcome and/or number of beneficiaries of an approved project level for which funds have already been approved. Additionally, in HUD Memorandum from John Gibbs, Acting Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, *CARES ACT Flexibility for CDBG Funds Used to Support Coronavirus Response and plan amendment waiver*, grantees are instructed to proceed with all amendments and plans under the new provisions outlined in the memo by adding the CDBG-CV allocation in their plans as an available resource for the year.

Economic Development is identified in the existing approved Consolidated Plan (2017 – 2021) as a priority need (SP-25), “Provide increased economic development opportunities in the jurisdiction; offer gap financing to businesses that will comply with job creation requirements.” Additionally, economic development is an identified category under the “Goals” section of the Consolidated Plan (SP-45), “Promote a regionally coordinated economic development planning strategy, which includes business, non-profits, officials from the County and its communities, officials from outside the County, and area residents that identifies ways to create and maintain employment in lower to middle income sectors of the workforce.

Social Services Support is identified in the existing approved Consolidated Plan as a priority need (SP-25), “Support essential services such as, employment training, health care, and mental health.” Additionally, supportive services is an identified category under the “Goals” section of the Consolidated Plan (SP-45), “Provide assistance to nonprofit organizations that provide needed supportive services to low/mod income persons living in the community, including but not limited to job training, senior services, health care, and homeless prevention.

IV. Citizen Participation

In accordance with Lake County’s Citizen Participation Plan, a public notice was published in the News-Herald newspaper on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 notifying the public of this Substantial Amendment and of the opportunity to submit written comments to the Lake County Planning and Community Development office (LC P&CD) or to provide oral comments during the Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at the Lake County Commissioner’s Chambers and will be broadcast live via YouTube and allows questions in real time with answers coming from the Planning and Community Development staff hosting the meeting.

A copy of the Public Notice is included as Attachment A. Proof of Publication of the Public Notice will be included as Attachment B to this Substantial Amendment document in the final transmittal to HUD.

The Public Notice and Substantial Amendment Document were also posted online at <http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/planningcommissionnew/home.aspx> and made available at the following locations:

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- Lake County Planning and Community Development office, 105 Main Street, Painesville, OH
- Lake County Administrative Building, 105 Main Street, Painesville, OH

Written comments received by LC P&CD and any oral testimony received during the Public Hearing will be summarized, included as Attachment C and submitted to HUD with the County's transmittal of the Substantial Amendment to the Action Plan.

V. List of Attachments

Attachment A:	Public Notice
Attachment B:	Proof of Publication of the Public Notice
Attachment C:	Summary of Public Comments Received

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ATTACHMENT A

**LAKE COUNTY OHIO
CDBG FEDERAL GRANTS PROGRAM
COMBINED NOTICE
NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION TO BE TAKEN RESPECTING PROPOSED SUBSTANTIAL
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN/2018 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Lake County Board of Commissioners announces the proposed substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan/2018 Annual Action Plan for the following Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) projects to be funded with available program income and prior year funds of the CDBG Program from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

A. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program proposed use of funds by project & activity:

Public Facilities – Construction Funds

Amount:

\$210,000.00

McKinley Outreach Center, Roof Improvements (\$210,000)

B. Public Hearing: Tuesday, August 20, 2019, 1:00 pm.

The Board of Lake County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, **August 20, at 1:00 pm** at the Lake County Administrative Building, 105 Main Street, 4th Floor, Painesville, Ohio 44077. The purpose of this public hearing will be to receive citizen comments prior to the submission of the Substantial Amendment to HUD. A copy of the draft Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Plan/2018 Annual Action Plan will be available for public review, during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday), from Friday, August 2, 2019 to Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at the Lake County Planning and Community Development Department, located at 125 E. Erie Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077. The documents can also be viewed at the Lake County Administrative Building, Commissioners' Office, 105 Main Street, 4th Floor, Painesville, Ohio 44077.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners will receive comments regarding the Substantial Amendment until 4:00 pm Tuesday, September 3, 2019. Written comments should be addressed to Mr. David Radachy, Director, Lake County Planning & Community Development Office, 125 E. Erie St., Painesville, Ohio 44077.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Jerry C. Cirino, President
John R. Hamercheck, Commissioner
Ron Young, Commissioner

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ATTACHMENT B

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ATTACHMENT C

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